themselves. It is my extreme honor to award him the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF RURAL SHAD BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sesquicentennial of Rural Shade Baptist Church, located in the community of Tarkington Prairie in Liberty County, Texas.

In 1870, a small group met in a brush arbor in Tarkington Prairie, symbolizing the beginning of a new church. The congregation was made up of hardworking, compassionate individuals determined to provide a robust and moral foundation for their community. On July 3, 1878, a deed was granted ''for the purpose of the erection and occupancy of a Baptist Church and Masonic Hall . . .''. Later that year, a two-story building was completed. While the top floor was dedicated to the Masonic Lodge, the bottom floor served as the sanctuary of the Rural Shade Baptist Church.

In 1902, Rural Shade started a choral school, collected their first offerings for the Buckner Orphans' Home, and took on a leadership role in forming the Tryon Evergreen Baptist Association. Five years later, they constructed a second building, costing $1,470.00. Soon after, church members granted the trustees of Oakdale High School, the first high school in Tarkington Prairie, permission to use the old church building, while the members moved into their newly constructed second church building. Over the years, Rural Shade has completed several building projects and renovations, including adding a third church building in 1938, a baptistry in 1945, a fourth church building in 1962, a youth wing in 1993, and a fifth building in 2005, which also serves as the church's current worship center. Remarkably, over the last 151 years, the church has remained on the same tract of land.

Early pastors were elected from the church's men each year until 1898 when pastors were first called to stay for an indefinite period. In 1944, the church hired its first full-time pastor. Former Pastors of Rural Shade Baptist Church include: D. D. Forman, B.F. Ellis Jr., J.M.A. Black, D.W. Jackson, J.A. Lee, O.P. Chambers, H.C. Morrison, J.W. Thomas, E. Loose, J.B. Marshall, J.L. Watson, J.E. Mott, J.H.H. Ellis, B.S. Franklin, T.J. Fouts, J.F. High, Henry Jones, W.H. Jones, R.W. Smith, R.J. McGinty, D.P. McGowan, H.C. Philips, W.A. Smith, H.R. Pressley, Bert Mattingly, W.A. Curtis, H.R. Pressley, D.L. Sinclair, G.M. Coe, Earl Hahn, R.L. Self, LeRoy Cooper, C.D. Sowell, Dale Mingus, John Garrett, J.B. Grimes, Albert Foster, Earl Be Iver, and Byron Reeves. Since 2016, Brad Dancer has served as the church's pastor.

Over the past two decades, Rural Shade Baptist Church has aided the community tremendously in response to natural disasters. In 2005, 2008, and 2016, individuals were sheltered and housed after the devastating aftermaths of hurricanes Rita, Ike, and Harvey. During Hurricane Harvey, the church assisted with high water rescues, saving individuals from flooding homes and buildings. Throughout the COVID–19 pandemic, the church joined the Houston Food Bank and distributed $3 million worth of food to local families in need. In fact, for his outstanding leadership and service to his community, Pastor Dancer was awarded the Citizen of the Year in 2020 by the Greater Cleveland Chamber of Commerce.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Rural Shade Baptist Church on reaching their Sesquicentennial last year and their 151st anniversary this year. Over the past century and a half, the Lord has certainly used this historic church to demonstrate the love, kindness, and generosity of Jesus Christ to the good people of Southeast Texas. I am privileged to represent such a devoted and faithful place of worship in my district.

JOSHUA LEE—EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, the rank of Eagle Scout is the highest, and most prestigious in the Boy Scouts of America. Anyone involved in the organization will understand the determination, persistence, and hard work it takes to obtain the rank. Joshua has not only demonstrated his commitment to his troop, but also his community, school, and himself. He exemplifies what it means to be, ''physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.'' Congratulations to Joshua on his extraordinary accomplishment. God Bless Joshua and God Bless America.

FUTURE OF RADAR

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 2021

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight important research being conducted by the University of Oklahoma, which is advancing cutting-edge developments in the areas of Air Defense Artillery, air dominance, ocean surveillance, ISR, EW, counter-UAS, GMTI, and a host of others. The developments I refer to center most directly in the budding area of all-digital radar.

New capabilities associated with all-digital radar present an extraordinary opportunity for the United States to better utilize important data for national security purposes, be it weather data, flight control data, projectile data, targeting data or any other type, to our tactical and operational advantage—land or sea.

Madam Speaker, in the area of distributed radar and 360-degree, all-digital, phased array radars, there are extraordinary leap-ahead capabilities which cannot be ignored. By bringing to bear advances in digital signal processing, artificial intelligence, and machine learning to the data streams that this new technology provides, the defense of the United States can be significantly advanced, providing leapfrog capabilities which vastly exceed those of our legacy radars.

Over time, all of the services have been engaged in developing capabilities in this area, albeit at a rate that does not always achieve the leap-ahead and transformational requirements that we now require strategically as we focus on defense from potential near-peer adversaries. While we currently maintain many advantages, technology advances quickly around the globe. It is critical we maintain our edge, and, in doing so, obtain the generational leap-ahead needed to secure it.

Madam Speaker, the Advanced Radar Research Center (ARRC) in Norman, Oklahoma, has conducted very significant research in this area. A component of the University of Oklahoma's research enterprise, the ARRC has generated important technological advancements to each major service component in the area of 360-degree phased array radars. In fact, to help further this contribution, I am supporting a National Defense Authorization Act proposal this year, initiated in the Senate, which encourages the Army Research Lab to collaborate with academia in the development of distributed radars and multi-function sensors. This is an area where I believe there will be plenty of bipartisan and bicameral support.

Madam Speaker, Army Research Lab in many ways has stepped forward for the Army in this area. I am confident that, as the Army's Combat Capabilities Development Command, Army Futures Command, and the ASA/ALT examine what can be accomplished in this area, they will quickly realize the high relevance of this technology to counter-UAS, Air Defense Artillery, and their EW enterprise. It has the potential to be one of the key transformational technologies that would allow the Army to leverage ground forces more effectively and to provide better defensive capabilities against airborne threats.

As the Department of Defense proceeds to develop technology in this area, we already see interest from the private sector. However, if we do not develop a joint approach to the development of this technology, it may result in it being stove-piped into systems without ever realizing the full extent of its capabilities. Furthermore, inability or unwillingness to coordinate research in this area could tax current supply chains and threaten the rate of development we are capable of in this area.

Additionally, application of this technology is not limited solely to the defense enterprise. Air traffic control, weather prediction and analysis, 5G frequency scanning dependent communications, and remote sensing could all benefit; NOAA is already engaged in related research. Therefore, over time, it may become beneficial to create a Joint Interagency Working Group on the development of distributed and all digital radar.

Madam Speaker, the future is bright for the development of these technologies in the United States. It is an area in which we can thrive. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to advance our common interests and our national defense by supporting the development of these technologies.